

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01457 111919Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7760

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION USNATO

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1457

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, IC, US, NATO

SUBJECT: KEFLAVIK TERMINAL ISSUE

1. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW OCTOBER 5, FONMIN AGUSTSSON HAD
FOLLOWING EXCHANGE WITH INTERVIEWER (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY
TRANSLATION):

2. Q. HAS ANYTHING BEEN AGREED ABOUT US PARTICIPATION IN THE
COST OF THE PROJECTED AIR TERMINAL AT KEFLAVIK AIRPORT?

A. NO, NOTHING HAS BEEN AGREED, AND DURING THIS TRIP THE
QUESTION OF ANY AGREEMENT DID NOT COME UP.

3. Q. BUT WAS IT SUPPOSED TO (COME UP)?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT THAT. NEGOTIATIONS MAY
RESULT FROM THE DISCUSSIONS BUT THERE WAS NOT QUESTION OF
ANY AGREEMENTS BEING REACHED DURING THESE TALKS.

4. Q. WAS THERE ANY TALK ABOUT BUILDING A ROAD AT
KEFLAVIK AIRPORT, IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER, THAT
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 01457 111919Z

WOULD RID AIR PASSENGERS OF THE GATE WHICH MANY FIND
IRRITATING?

A. IT IS, OF COURSE, OBVIOUS THAT TO COMPLETE THE
SEPARATION OF THE AIRPORT WHILE ARMED FORCES ARE THERE
WE MUST BUILD A TERMINAL IN A NEW PLACE AND A ROAD
TO REACH IT. IT IS CLEAR THAT WHAT MUST BE DONE, BUT
THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO FINANCE IT. I HAVE BEEN SEEKING

A SOLUTION TO THIS FOR A LONG TIME.

5. Q. BUT THE AMERICANS HAVE DECLARED THEMSELVES
WILLING TO TAKE PART IN THE COST OF THIS, HAVEN'T THEY?

A. THIS HAS NOT BEEN GONE INTO IN ANY DETAIL, BUT I
EXPECT IT WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE FOR THEM TO PAY SOME
PART OF THE COST. IT STANDS TO REASON THAT IF THEY
WANT TO STAY THERE, THEY MUST SEE TO IT THAT FACILITIES
ARE BUILT TO ALLOW FOR THIS SEPARATION.

6. COMMENT: SUBJECT OF TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION HAS
BEEN DISCUSSED BY ICELANDERS PRIVATELY BEFORE BUT WE
BELIEVE THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT GOI OFFICIAL HAS
PUBLICLY ADDRESSED ISSUE. FOREIGN MINISTER'S ASSOCI-
ATION OF OUR CONTINUED PRESENCE AT KEFLAVIK WITH
SEPARATION OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY FACILITIES AT
BASE IS PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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